

begin with. Then we were shown to our rooms. However, before long the order came along that we were to join the ship sailing from — at midnight. So we were bundled off, much to the envy of some of the nurses, who had been at — some three weeks or so.

I shall never forget that night as long as I live; what with the wounded coming in on stretchers, and being hustled along endless corridors. I moved as though in a dream. We were on the boat at last . . . There are four of us (Sisters) on board . . . six medical officers, and about 25 orderlies. . . . We reached Havre on Saturday morning, and that evening left with 500 wounded on board.

The "Tommies" are simply lovely. I do like them so much. Poor things, all they want is to get better quickly, so that they can have another shot at the enemy. . . . They are disgusted if they do not have anything to show for having been to the Front. One poor man was quite upset because he was silly enough to have pneumonia. They have various complaints, pneumonia through exposure, and I have had two or three simply exhaustion; long marches and sleeping out was too much for them. They are too tired to feed themselves, no temperature, and a feeble pulse; but it is wonderful what hot beef tea and a warm bed does for them. They all look better very quickly.

We have now been in three times to Havre. The second visit we took back 600 wounded, and this time we are taking about 200 Sisters to various new bases along the coast. . . .

September 12th, 1914.

We have been very busy the last four days taking in our wounded. We are about 600 on board and 58 wounded German prisoners. They are quite happy and pleased to be English prisoners, rather than French. They are quite confident that they are going to win in the end.

Yours sincerely,
SISTER A. B.

Havre, September 4th.

MY DEAR MATRON,—Picture to yourself a large ship painted white with a green band, flying the Red Cross, and on the decks nurses dressed in the Army uniform—grey and scarlet. . . . There are over 200 now on board, and we are taking them to various places on the coast of France on our way to — for which we are bound, to pick up the wounded.

The base hospital here, Havre, has had to be moved on account of the Germans, so another one is being made on the coast. I am in charge of the wounded officers, and some of the Tommies who can walk.

The most impressive sight is to see the Belgians going out by moonlight, singing and cheering as they go; in a large ship lighted up, holding thousands of men to return—when? The officers have told me most pitiful tales, and one realizes very much the horrors of war when the wounded are

brought from the hospital to the ship, stretchers after stretchers, with men all covered in bandages, and some mentally afflicted as well.

We are continually receiving fresh orders, and never know where we are going to for certain. . . . I have two orderlies to help me with the officers. On their arrival I take their name, rank, regiment and religion, and then do their dressings and make them comfortable. Last time I had 15 officers, and before that 12; they are very nice, and had awful wounds.

Very sincerely yours,
SISTER L. C.

WORKERS FOR THE WOUNDED.

Lady Perrott, the Lady Commandant-in-Chief of St. John Women's Voluntary Aid Detachments, and Lady Superintendent-in-Chief of Nursing Corps and Divisions of St. John Ambulance Brigade, is the wife of Colonel Sir Herbert Perrott, Bart., C.B., the Secretary General of the Grand Priory of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, and since the outbreak of War has been one of the very busiest women in London. Lady Perrott attends daily at the office of the Order, at St. John's Gate, E.C., and by her kindness to every visitor she has time to see, has done much to stimulate public interest in the valuable work for the sick and wounded, which has been accomplished during the past six weeks, under a Special Committee of ladies of the Order, of which Her Majesty Queen Mary is President.

A Special Appeal is now being made on behalf of St. John Ambulance Association, in which it is reported that a large contingent of surgeons and 130 highly trained nurses have already been sent out to tend the wounded, and 5,000 men belonging to St. John Ambulance Brigade have been mobilised and are now serving with the Royal Army and Navy as hospital orderlies. We hope the Appeal may receive very generous support.

THE CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

The Queen has sent the French Red Cross in London (Union des Femmes de France) a gift of 640 garments. It was received with deep gratitude, and will be much appreciated in France, where the large bales are to be sent immediately.

The question of the organisation of the Red Cross Society in Ireland has been receiving the attention of the Executive Committee of the Red Cross; and it has been decided that the best method is to proceed by Counties, as in England. It is hoped each County will form a Branch of the Red Cross, which will be in direct communication with the Headquarters of the Society in London as in the case of the English and Scottish Branches.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)